



December 4, 2014

John Martin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support Multiemployer Reform Legislation

Dear John:

On behalf of the undersigned companies that comprise the Association of Food and Dairy Retailers, Wholesalers and Manufacturers, representing over 700,000 associates and members nationwide, we urge you support the bi-partisan multiemployer pension reform legislation being offered by House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman John Kline and Ranking Member George Miller.

This legislation protects pensions, retirees, and taxpayers. It is the only reform that accomplishes all of these important objectives.

A number of multiemployer plans stand on the brink of financial collapse, notwithstanding that these deeply troubled plans have exhausted all remedies available under current law. Without additional options, these plans will face insolvency in the near future.

In an attempt to avert this crisis, labor and management from numerous industries worked together for almost two years to analyze all possible solutions and develop a consensus position. The joint labor-management effort led to a report last year from the National Coordinating Committee of Multiemployer Pension Plans titled "Solutions Not Bailouts." These recommendations offered a measured, fair and viable solution to the difficult but necessary task of rescuing deeply troubled plans.

The reform legislation being offered by Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller draws from the recommendations found in "Solutions Not Bailouts." Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller have worked on this effort for over two years and have held numerous hearings highlighting the crisis. Working with business and labor, they have developed a package that will stabilize and protect the pensions of millions of multiemployer plan participants – without resorting to Federal financial assistance.

Opponents to this legislation would prefer that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) assume the obligations of retiree "orphans." The unfortunate reality is that the PBGC already faces a very significant funding shortfall, and any further shifting of pension obligations to the PBGC will hasten its insolvency and accelerate the need for Federal financial assistance.

The bi-partisan legislation offered by Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller offers the most logical and least painful way of saving the multiemployer pension system. We urge you to support this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Aramark
AWG
Bimbo Bakeries USA
ConAgra Foods
Dairy Farmers of America
Dean Foods
Kellogg's
Kroger Co.

Land O'Lakes
Nestlé USA
Penske
Prairie Farms Dairy
Schnucks
Spangler Candy
SpartanNash
SUPERVALU

